

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5998

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CZ

SUBJECT: REPRESSION OF CZECH ACTIVISTS -- CONTINGENCY PRESS
GUIDANCE

1. MOST LIKELY FORM OF OVERT REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS DURING ANNIVERSARY IS LIKELY TO BE 48-HOUR
"INVESTIGATION DETENTION", AS WAS DONE DURING BREZHNEV
VISIT. THIS IS WITHIN LETTER OF CZECHOSLOVAK LAW. SINCE
WE DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR PRACTICE DURING THE
BREZHNEV VISIT, IT WOULD SEEM INCONSISTENT TO RAISE IT
IN THE ANNIVERSARY CASE.

2. SOME DISSIDENTS MAY ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT SOME FORM
OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION, HOWEVER, AND, IF SO, WOULD
CERTAINLY BE SUPPRESSED. APPROPRIATE STATEMENT IN THAT
CASE MIGHT BE ALONG LINES: "WE NOTE WITH CONCERN REPORTS
OF ARRESTS IN PRAGUE OF A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO SOUGHT TO
EXPRESS PUBLICLY THEIR OPINIONS ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORCIBLE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY TROOPS OF
FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. THE RIGHT TO HOLD OPINIONS
AND TO EXPRESS THEM PEACEFULLY IS RECOGNIZED BY BOTH
THE SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR
ENDORSEMENT OF SUCH DOCUMENTS AS THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
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CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. AS A MATTER
OF PRINCIPLE, WE DEPLORE ALL CASES OF SUPPRESSION OF
PEACEFUL EXPRESSION OF OPINION."

3. WE WOULD CAUTION THAT SOME ACTIVISTS CAN BECOME
QUITE EXUBERANT UPON OCCASION AND CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN
THAT ANY INCIDENT CRITICIZED INDEED RESULTED FROM

"PEACEFUL" DEMONSTRATION.

4. DECONTROL AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.

BYRNE

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